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Appl. No.: 10/731,745
Amdt. Dated: 12/12/2006
NOA Dated: 11/29/2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Amendment of Claims.

In response to the Examiner's Amendment sent with the Notice of Allowability on November 29, 2006, Applicants request that the claims submitted with the Examiner's Amendment be cancelled and replaced with the enclosed claim set. Such cancellation is requested because the claims are directed to claim numbers that are not presently of record in the case (e.g. the elements of the claims are recited according to a future reordering of claims). The enclosed claim set corresponds with the Examiner-Initiated Interview conducted on November 1, 2006, between Examiner Rao and Applicants' representative, Robert Kramer. In that interview, amendments to claims 5, 13, 15, 16, 23, and 30 were discussed.

Original Claim 5 has been amended into dependent form to depend from Claim 4, and to correct for proper dependency. In claim 5, text relating to elements already recited in Independent Claim 4 (from which it now depends), has been deleted.

Claim 13 has been amended to include the elements of dependent claim 15. Claim 15 has correspondingly been cancelled. In addition Claim 16 has been amended to depend from Claim 13 rather than cancelled Claim 15.

Claims 23 and 30 have been amended to include that the sheath comprises an epitaxial casting.

No other amendments have been made.

2. Conclusion.

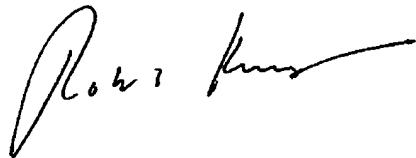
This amendment supplements and corrects the previously entered Examiner's Amendment (mailed with the Notice of Allowance). Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested to avoid the need for requesting a Certificate of Correction after issuance.

Please contact the undersigned in the event that there are any questions regarding this amendment.

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Respectfully submitted,



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